



Billing Code: 4150-41P

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Nominations to the Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability

**AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) is seeking nominations of qualified individuals to be considered for appointment as members of the Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability (ACBSA). ACBSA is a Federal advisory committee in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Management support for the activities of this Committee is the responsibility of the OASH. The qualified individuals will be nominated to the Secretary of HHS for consideration of appointment as members of the ACBSA. Members of the Committee, including the Chair, are appointed by the Secretary. Members are invited to serve on the Committee for up to four-year terms.

**DATES:** All nominations must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. EDT on January 27, 2012, at the address listed below.

**ADDRESSES:** All nominations should be mailed or delivered to Mr. James Berger, Acting Director, Blood Safety and Availability, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 250, Rockville, MD 20852. Telephone: (240) 453-8803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Melissa Greenwald, Associate Public Health Advisor for Blood, Organ and Tissue Safety Policy, Department of Health and Human Services, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 250, Rockville, MD 20852. Telephone: (240) 453-8803.

A copy of the Committee charter and roster of the current membership can be obtained by contacting Dr. Greenwald or by accessing the ACBSA website at

<http://www.hhs.gov/bloodsafety>. <http://www.hhs.gov/bloodsafety>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability shall provide advice to the Secretary and to the Assistant Secretary for Health. The Committee shall advise on a range of policy issues to include: (1) definition of public health parameters around safety and availability of the blood and blood products, (2) broad public health, ethical, and legal issues related to transfusion and transplantation safety, and (3) the implications for safety and availability of various economic factors affecting product cost and supply.

The ACBSA consists of 20 voting members. The Committee is composed of 14 public members, including the Chair, and six (6) representative members. The public members are selected from State and local organizations, advocacy groups, provider organizations, academic researchers, ethicists, private physicians, scientists, consumer advocates, legal organizations, and from among communities of persons who are frequent recipients of blood or blood products. The six individuals who are appointed as official representative members are selected to serve the interests of the blood and blood products industry or

professional organizations associated with transfusion or transplantation safety. The representative members are selected from the following groups: the AABB, the plasma protein fraction community, one of the two major distributors of blood on a rotating basis, a trade organization or manufacturer of blood, plasma, or other tissue test kits or equipment, and a purchaser of blood and blood products from major hospital organization.

All ACBSA members are authorized to receive the prescribed per diem allowance and reimbursement for travel expenses that are incurred to attend meetings and conduct Committee-related business, in accordance with Standard Government Travel Regulations. Individuals who are appointed to serve as public members are authorized to also receive a stipend for attending Committee meetings and to carry out other Committee-related business. Individuals who are appointed to serve as representative members for a particular interest group or industry are not authorized to receive a stipend for the performance of these duties.

This announcement is to solicit nominations of qualified candidates to fill positions on the ACBSA that are scheduled to be vacated in both membership categories. Qualified applicants are being sought to represent the specific interests of the following blood and blood products industries or professional organizations: State and local organizations, advocacy groups, provider organizations, academic researchers, private physicians, scientists, consumer advocates, legal organizations, one of the two major distributors of blood, a trade organization, or manufacturer of blood, plasma, infectious disease screening assays or other tissue test kits or equipment and a major health care

organization that purchases blood and blood products. The positions are scheduled to be vacated between March 30, 2012 and May 29, 2012.

### Nominations

In accordance with the charter, persons nominated for appointment as members of the ACBSA should be among authorities knowledgeable in blood banking, transfusion medicine, plasma therapies, transfusion organ and tissue transplantation, bioethics, and/or related disciplines. Nominations should be typewritten. The following information should be included in the package of material submitted for each individual being nominated for consideration of appointment: (a) the name, return address, daytime telephone number, and affiliation(s) of the individual being nominated, the basis for the individual's nomination, the category for which the individual is being nominated, and a statement bearing an original signature of the nominated individual that, if appointed, he or she is willing to serve as a member of the Committee; (b) the name, return address, and daytime telephone number at which the nominator may be contacted. Organizational nominators must identify a principal contact person in addition to the contact; and (c) a copy of a current curriculum vitae or resume for the nominated individual.

Individuals can nominate themselves for consideration of appointment to the Committee. All nominations must include the required information. Incomplete nominations will not be processed for consideration. The letter from the nominator and certification of the nominated individual must bear original signatures; reproduced copies of these signatures are not acceptable.

The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to ensuring that women, minority groups, and physically challenged individuals are adequately represented on the Committee. Nominations of qualified candidates from these categories are encouraged. The Department also seeks to have geographic diversity reflected in the composition of the Committee.

The Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch are applicable to individuals who are appointed as public members of Federal advisory committees. Individuals appointed to serve as public members of Federal advisory committees are classified as special Government employees (SGEs). SGEs are Government employees for purposes of the conflict of interest laws. Therefore, individuals appointed to serve as public members of the ACBSA are subject to an ethics review. The ethics review is conducted to determine if the individual has any interests and/or activities in the private sector that may conflict with performance of their official duties as a member of the Committee. Individuals appointed to serve as public members of the Committee will be required to disclose information regarding financial holdings, consultancies, and research grants and/or contracts.

**DATED: November 30, 2011**

James J. Berger

Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability

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